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Its present frontier was first decided by the Council of Ambassadors in 1913, but was held in suspense until 1921 when the Supreme Council sanctioned it.

The population of Albania is 68% Moslem, 21% Eastern Orthodox and 11% Roman Catholic.

Realising that the Balkan Peninsula has been disputed territory for centuries, with sovereignty alternating between Byzantines, Venetians, Slavs, Huns, Magyars, Turks and Austrians, it is not surprising that the different types of costume and decoration have intermingled, and so a difficult problem is presented when one has to deal with such a collection as this.

However, it has seemed best to divide the material into that from (1) the central and coastal area, which shows mainly Austrian and Italian influence, and (2) the southern section, with Albania, which was so largely influenced by Turkish rule, and where at the present time there are perhaps more Turkish costumes worn than in Turkey itself.

CHAPTER II.

Materials and their production.

The materials used in making and decorating the garments worn in the central, coastal and southern parts of Yugoslavia and Albania fall into two categories, home-produced, and those purchased in shops and markets, which are often imported goods.

The materials used in the south and Albania differ somewhat from those used in the other areas. The latter are dealt with first.

Cloths.

Materials upon which embroidery is to be worked are usually made by the women themselves and are of two kinds, that made from flax and hemp, woven into linen (" platno ") which is used for shirts, skirts for summer wear and headshawls or kerchiefs; and "sukno", made entirely of sheep's wool, hand spun and woven in the home on a simple, rather clumsy type of hand-loom. " The woollen material thus produced is used for the sleeveless wrap ' zubun ', the short cloth coat with sleeves worn by younger women, and the long cloth coat worn in winter by women of all ages and districts."* " The peasant men throughout Yugoslavia wear garments of this woollen material " (M.E.D.).

That most important feature of most costumes, the apron, has homespun hemp for its warps and woollen yarn for weft. " Some of the thick woollen stuff, white in Albania and brown amongst the Serbs, of which men's clothes were made was beaten to a thick, hard felt in fulling mills worked by water power. Heavy hammers of walnut wood hammered the stuff for forty hours." (M.E.D.).

Imported cloths include calico for shirts and printed cotton for linings, apparently English, fine woollen cloth from Austria and Italy for the jelek worn by middle-class women and also for some of the handsomer types of coats.

* Milan Karanovic. " Costume of the Women of Zmiyagne " Sarajevo, 1928.